

NOAA's Strategic Plans for operational environmental modeling

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The US National Weather Service (NWS) runs a large number of operational models, generally known as the Production Suite. Driven by external reviews, a strategic plan and a roadmap for the production suite have been developed. Planning has been done at four stages.

1. A NOAA-wide Unified Modeling Committee (UMC) coordinates modeling between the NOAA line offices, including the NWS. The UMC provides strategic guidance to NOAA.
2. A Strategic Vision document has been developed outlining a transition of NOAA environmental modeling to a Unified Community approach. This is a strategic document, approved by the senior leadership of NOAA Line Offices.
3. A roadmap document has been developed to outline how the Production Suite of the NWS and its partners can transition to an approach based on a Unified Forecast System across scales, including a fully coupled environmental modeling approach, with full resolution ensembles and reforecasts and reanalyses. This represents a 5-10 year plan approved by senior leadership of LOs contributing to the Production Suite.
4. A strategic implementation plan has been developed to implement the Roadmap. This is a three-year execution plan, that will be updated annually, and is reviewed by the funding authorities within the line offices.

The presentation will review the main elements of the four plans, as well as the status of the transition of the Production Suite to its new unified and simplified configuration for seamless prediction across local to global spatial scales with temporal ranges from minutes to seasons.